

Westhampton Memorial Library

STONE WALLS



FALL
1986

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MAR 1986

Editorial — Fall

Several years ago the editors of *Stone Walls* considered the possibility of ceasing publication due to lack of funds. Our readers responded most generously to our appeal for contributions, and we also received grants from several Arts Councils in our area. Our financial problems were resolved and the magazine has continued.

However, during the past year deficits have eaten into our carryover funds, and so once again we need to ask our friends for help. We don't want to increase the price of the magazine and we don't want to change its character. Last year we did become recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non profit organization, so contributions are now tax deductible. In addition to asking for help from our readers, we plan to have a tag sale this fall and we also will request assistance from the local Arts Councils.

At one point we thought we would run out of material but new articles and old newspaper clippings keep coming, so that is no problem. We want to continue publishing *Stone Walls*, but its future really does depend on our readers and their support.

The Editorial Board

STONE WALLS is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$7.00 a year, \$2.00 for individual copies. Please add 80 cents with a special request for any back issue to be mailed. The retail price of individual copies may be modified only with the permission of the Editorial Board. We welcome unsolicited manuscripts and illustrations from and about the hilltowns of the Berkshires. The editors of STONE WALLS assume no responsibility for non-commissioned manuscripts, photographs, drawings, or other material. No such material will be returned unless submitted with self addressed envelope and sufficient postage. We also welcome letters from our readers. No portions of this publication may be reproduced in any form, with the exception of brief excerpts for review purposes, without the express consent of the editors of STONE WALLS. Due to the fact that we are a non-profit making publication, we will continue to publish our magazine as long as it is financially possible. If at any time we are unable to continue, we will be under no obligation to refund any subscription.

STONE WALLS 1986

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Mary Harkins Frisbie

1858 — 1941

*Written By Her Granddaughter
Frances Knox Childs*



The Phelon Homestead

During the nineteenth century so many private charitable organizations developed in Boston that it would seem as though every person in need would have been cared for by them, and that soon there would be no poor person remaining. Although the activities of these organizations were

beneficial and extensive, they were not adequate to care for all the needy whose numbers were swelled by the thousands of immigrants that landed at Boston fleeing from the famine conditions of Europe caused by the widespread failure of the potato crops.

In 1852 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts voted to build three Almshouses. To care for the poor in state-supported institutions was an experiment originating with Massachusetts. The buildings at Tewksbury, Monson and Bridgewater were filled soon after their official openings in 1854, and became crowded way beyond their capacities by 1857, a year when the suffering of the poor was very great.

The following year on December first, Mary Harkins was born in Boston. Her mother, Hannah Harkins, was unable to care for her, and eventually relinquished Mary to the Tewksbury Almshouse, about twenty-five miles north of Boston. Quite a number of years were to pass before the careful and wise cultivation of the poor sandy soil of the almshouse acreage would transform it into a productive farm. Mary was at the Tewksbury Almshouse in the early years when, as one historian states, "the neglected appearance of the buildings was a disgrace to the state." The stark building was surrounded by a sandy prospect where not a tree provided shade and where neither a grassy lawn nor a bed of flowers had been planted. Perhaps part of the neglect was due to the unsettled conditions prevailing during the Civil War, for even the residents of the almshouse were a part of the activities of a nation at war. From the inmates nearly a company of soldiers was raised and many others went as substitutes. About one tenth of the residents were children but they contributed to the war effort by scraping lint, which was used for the wounded.

Mary began her schooling at the

Tewksbury institution, but when she was seven years old was transferred to the Monson Almshouse. When the three state almshouses were opened all ages were accepted at each institution. After a few years the state decided to use the Bridgewater Almshouse for the needy who were able to work. It became known as the Bridgewater Workhouse. The Tewksbury Almshouse was kept for those who, because of age or physical condition, were helpless. The Monson Almshouse became the State Farm School. The children from the other two homes were transferred to Monson, and it became the center for housing and educating the children who were wards of the state. There was great hope that the training they received would enable them to lead useful lives which would be a benefit rather than a burden to the state.

The town of Monson was between Worcester and Springfield, and the almshouse was located in its northern section overlooking the village of Palmer Depot a mile away. About five acres of land around the wooden building were enclosed by a fence. Surrounding this was a large farm of nearly three hundred acres which provided ample space for large gardens where potatoes, a basic food of their diet, and other vegetables grew well. Chickens supplied fresh eggs, their own cows provided fresh milk, and pigs were raised to supply the residents with pork.

When Mary Harkins entered the Monson State Farm School she was assigned a bed in a pleasant clean room; was provided with comfortable, neat clothing, and simple nourishing

food. Mary soon learned the meals' routine. For breakfast each day she and the other children were served bread and milk or crackers and milk. The bread "of the best wheat flour" was made fresh each day in the school kitchen. At noon the main meal of the day was served. The regular round of dishes varied somewhat with the season, but all were designed to preserve good health. Twice a week beef soup with potatoes was served; corned beef, bread, rice and molasses, also twice a week; fish with rice and bread twice a week; beans, pork and bread once a week. Supper for Mary and the young children was another bowl of bread and milk. When a child was sick, special diets were prepared with rice, molasses, chicken, beef tea, or creamed toast tempting the appetite, and care would be given in the hospital rooms.

Every morning Mary gathered with the other children for devotional exercises led by the chaplain. The administrators of the school believed their most important work was the development of Christian character, and the superintendent, chaplain and teachers worked together with that purpose. On Sunday mornings, Mary went to the chapel for the worship service and in the afternoons attended the Sunday School.

Each weekday morning, school classes were held. Although most of the students had unfortunate backgrounds they showed a general quickness of apprehension and good musical ability. Discipline was mild, firm and paternal.

Following the afternoon session of school, Mary played with the younger children. When the weather was plea-

sant they enjoyed the large play area that was nearly enclosed by the building and its wings. The office of the superintendent overlooked the yard, and he often observed the activities of the children. The older children had duties to perform either in the kitchen or some other part of the building, or on the farm.

As the month of May drew to a close in 1866 an event took place that was to change the entire pattern of Mary Harkins' life. A middle-aged gentleman, a farmer from the Berkshire hill town of Granville, Massachusetts, arrived at the State Farm School. Mr. Cyrus Phelon had made arrangements with the Inspectors of the Institution to take two children by indenture. He was seeking a boy to help with the farm work and a girl to assist his wife with the housework. They were to perform certain duties for him, and in turn he was to provide certain benefits for them. If, after a trial period of a month or two, they proved satisfactory, indenture papers would be signed.

During early colonial times the systems of indenture had provided most of the servants in the homes. People who wished to migrate to America but were unable to pay their passage would be "bought" by someone desiring their services. The ship captain would accept such people as passengers and "sell" them when he reached a harbor. A contract would be signed whereby the captain received the passage money, the person would agree to a term of service, and the master would agree to provide certain remuneration. The terms varied considerably and some were unusual and very interesting, but they generally included clothing and maintenance with a sum of

money at the end of the indenture. If the indentured person was young the contract usually included a promise of some schooling.

The system of indenture continued to some extent through the nineteenth century and was practiced by town and county authorities who had the care of orphans. They had the right to bind out orphans at any age to masters who would look after them and bring them up in some trade or profession.

Mr. Phelon completed his business with the Inspectors and began the journey of about thirtyfive miles to Granville. With him were fourteen year old Joseph Welch and eight-and-a-half year old Mary Harkins. Joseph was to serve as an apprentice in agriculture, and Mary in housekeeping. Of the several hundred children at the almshouse they had been chosen as the best suited to the Phelon family. No doubt Mary already gave evidence of the industriousness and sprightliness that would characterize her later life. Probably they travelled by train from Palmer Depot to Westfield, from where the Phelon team and carriage would take them to the farm in Granville. Cyrus Phelon was a prominent, respected citizen of Granville. He was fifty years old and had been a farmer all of his life. Recently he had sold his home, Farnham Farm, and moved his family, farm animals and equipment to a hundred acre farm on Clement Road (now Phelon Road) which was to become the Phelon homestead and to consist eventually of three hundred and eighty acres of fields, pasture and woodland.

It had been a very long day for Mary. The level river plains around Westfield had given way to the foothills of the

Berkshires, and the horses had stopped often to rest as they pulled the carriage up the steep country roads. Through woods where the leaves were still a tender spring green, past farms where the stock enjoyed the succulent young grass that grew in the stony pastures, stopping at a roadside spring where sparkling mountain water refreshed both the travelers and the horses, they finally reached the schoolhouse where Mary would study her books. Another mile passed and Mary caught sight of the farmhouse and buildings which would become lovingly familiar during the next eight years. Scarcely a level area could be seen, but fields spread over the rolling countryside. Various small buildings clustered around the large white farmhouse that was nearly one hundred years old (built in 1782), and across the road was the new barn.

To Be Continued



The Middlefield Fair in 1859 A Report to the State Board of Agriculture

by Charles K. Tracy

From the Seventh Annual Report
Of The Secretary
Of The Massachusetts Board of Agriculture
1860.

Without an appointment, I attended the first fair of the Highland Agricultural Society, held at Middlefield the 14th and 15th of September, under their new charter. This society embraces parts of Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties, and has opened with very favorable prospects. They have grounds of some ten or fifteen acres, very handsomely situated on an eminence near the centre of the town, inclosed with a fence, inside of which is a track for the exhibition of horses. On the height of the eminence they have a hall for the use of the domestic manufactures, vegetables, dairy products, &c. [etc.]. The first day was devoted to the exhibition of stock; and although the day was very unpropitious, being very cold, with a high wind, there was a fine display of cattle and other stock. There entered their inclosure over 550 head of cattle which

were entered for exhibition and premiums, most of which were of the improved breeds, Durhams and Devons predominating. I think the exhibition of the cattle cannot be excelled, as to quantity or quality, in the State.

There were three town teams, of which Middlefield took the first premium, the team consisting of over eighty yoke of very fine cattle. One yoke of fat cattle was exhibited which was sold for \$300, and said to weigh 5,000 lbs.; these cattle had been fattened upon grass alone. It would be impossible for me to describe all of the good stock on the ground; but this I can say: there was not any of it poor.

Their hall is too small for their use, being but sixty feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. It was well filled with dairy products, fruits, vegetables, domestic manufactures, with a good display of the needle work of the ladies,



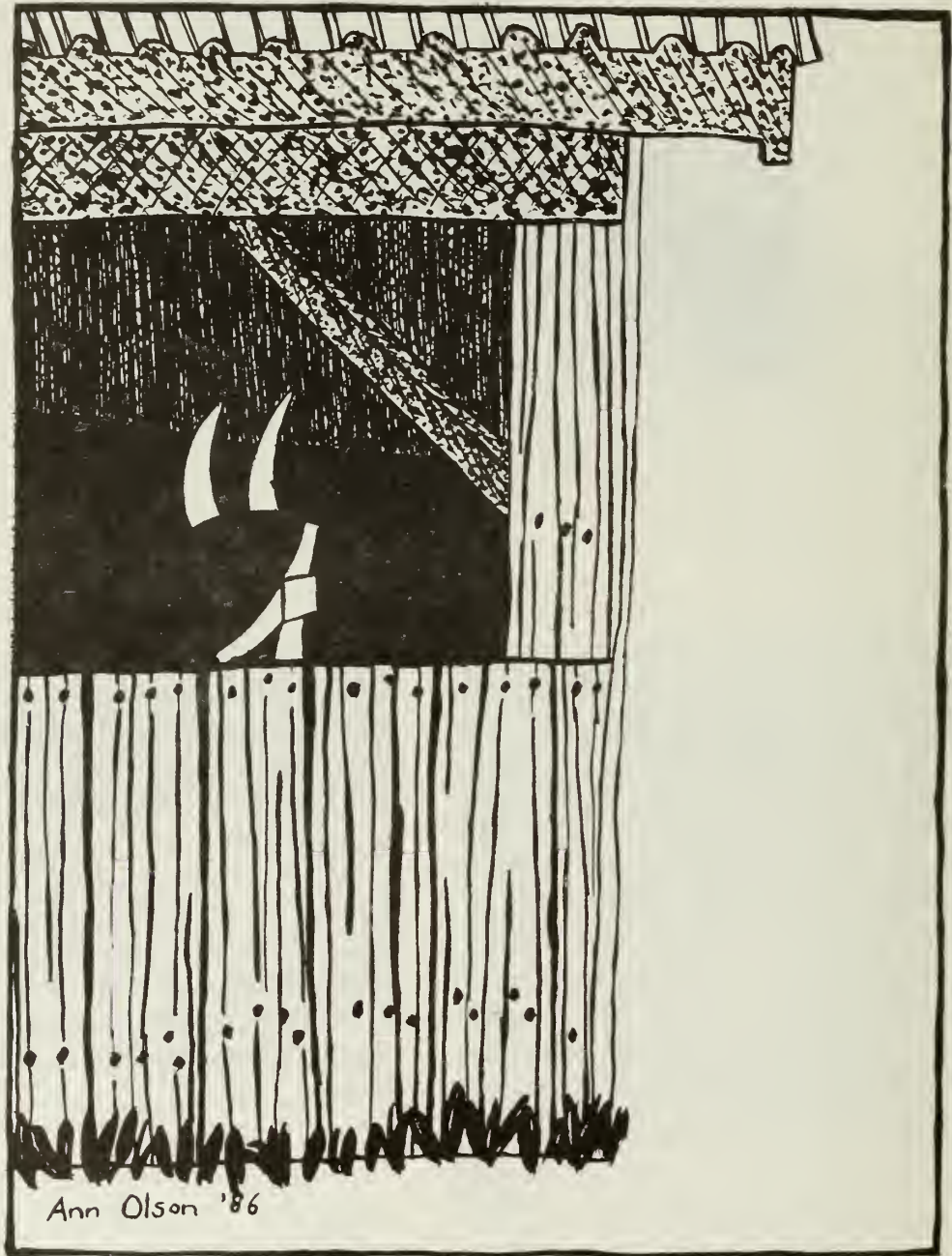
Horse Drawing

who, in the mountain towns, are not to be beaten on such an occasion as this was. The evening of the first day was spent by a social gathering of the members and others at their hall, with speeches from various persons, and music by the band. The second day, at 10 o'clock, A.M., the exhibition of horses commenced, of which there was not a large number, but good ones. After the committees had finished their duties in this department, the members formed a procession and marched to the church, where the address was

delivered by Ex-Governor Boutwell, which was a well written and instructive address. The reports of committees were then read, and the premiums delivered to the several successful competitors.

Although this society have had considerable difficulty in getting funds and their act of incorporation, I understand that they are now clear of debt, and bid fair to take a prominent place among the other societies of the State.





Steer In A Stall At The Cummington Fair

Early Beginnings of Union Agricultural Society Blandford, Massachusetts

(Taken from the 1890 Report by Enos W. Boies, Secretary)

“One hundred and twenty-three pair of cattle and steers were exhibited, besides a number of horses, colts, bulls, cows, etc. Thirteen pair were sold for from \$112 to \$200 each.” The next Fair was held October 4 the same year, School-house Hall was used for the exhibition of the usual hall exhibits, and the record says “this show was a decided success”.

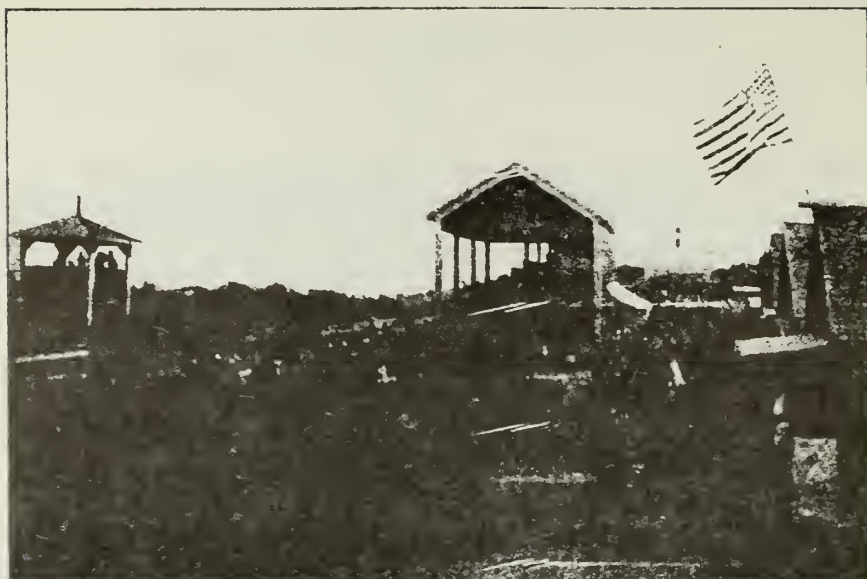
The holding of shows semi-annually was continued until 1866, since which time the spring shows have been omitted and fairs held only in the fall. Whether this omission has been wise none can tell, for all reports of the spring shows speak of the sales of cattle, and we will remember the goodly number of cattle dealers from abroad that were in attendance.

In this year (1866) was first agitated the question of being chartered as an Incorporated Agricultural Society. This was accomplished in the session of the Legislature of 1867. To obtain the first and needed capital stock many took several shares of five dollars each, and a number of our farmers most interested gave their joint note to the Society as a guarantee to the State that the stock of the Society should be the required amount actually paid in.

The present report marks a quarter of a century of the recognized existence of the Society. While this is true so far as printed reports have been made, yet the actual commencement was in December 1859, in what was then called “The Farmers’ Conversational Club”, which was changed in 1877 to “Union Agricultural Society”. Meetings of this Club were held weekly and the attendance was good. It has a membership of ninety-two of the farmers of Blandford and their sons. The membership fees were twenty-five cents for adults, and minors nothing.

Among those active in the meetings, as well as interested in the future growth of the Society, are to be found the names of many whom we all remember, who have either removed from town or have been called to join that procession which has passed to the silent realms beyond. Of these last many are held in warm remembrance for the interest they had in those of us in our minority, encouraging us to attend and take part in discussions.

This Club called the first show, which was held in the village street, March 21, 1860, a “Market Fair or Sale Day”. Of this show the following report is on record: —



SCENE ON FAIR GROUNDS, GRANDFORD

After being chartered the question of permanent grounds was the main theme; and finally, after viewing various locations, your present grounds were purchased in the fall of 1867, a one-fourth mile track having been put on this land the year previous, by individuals, or, in other words, by the free work of many of our farmers. The wants of the Society were many, and with a small amount of capital it was a question how the Society would succeed. All were in earnest, and lent a helping hand. The officers all served free, and many having premiums awarded, donated the same to the Society. For two years hall exhibitions were held in the old Town Hall; this being some distance from the grounds and inconvenient, in 1869 your present hall was built, and the Society found itself with a debt of \$1500. Croakers now prophesied the speedy downfall of the Society. The following year, the horse exhibitors claiming that the track was inadequate, the present track was built, and the debt still further increased to something over

\$1700. Now, surely, some said, the good and prosperous days of the Society were past, and an incubus was over all that could never be removed. But the same wise and judicious management, that had from its birth watched over it, still continued, and this debt was soon cleared off, and funds began to accumulate.

Other improvements being proposed, were opposed by some; but the time for a definite policy had come, and we well remember the remark made by one of the Society's most earnest friends and workers, which is worthy of repeating here: — "The object of societies like this is not to hoard up funds, and success can only be had in the judicious expenditure from time to time of surplus funds as improvements for the benefit and good of the public present themselves". This course has been adopted by purchasing and moving on to the Society's land the old Town Hall and fitting it up as a barn, by building seats, digging a well, building an addition to the hall, building a new barn, and for sutler and trade

purposes erecting buildings for booths, and last by enlarging of your Fair grounds. All this has been done, and you have, it is true, a small debt — less than \$500. As in the past you have several times had larger debts, which have been canceled by wise and judicious management, so too, as in the past, this soon will be paid, and still your success will be assured.

Notes: — School-house Hall was the upper room in the present Blandford Historical Society building.

The Town Hall mentioned was re-erected from the old meeting house which stood opposite the White Church. It was just to the south of the location of the meeting house.

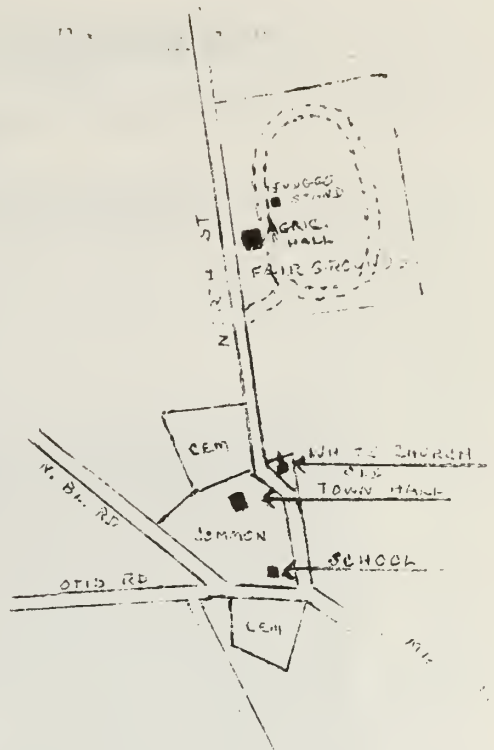
The Blandford Town Report for the period April 3, 1875 to April 1, 1876 shows a receipts from the Union Agricultural Society for the old Town house — \$18.

See map for locations of these two buildings.

This is an article from the *Connecticut Courant* dated Monday, May 9, 1796.

For Sale

A valuable farm, situated in the Town of Chester, County of Hampshire, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, containing two hundred and fifty acres of excellent land, suitably proportioned into mowing, plowing, pasturing, and woodland, with a commodious dwelling-house and barn standing on the premises. A small orchard of fruit, and an excellent sugar orchard of



near three hundred trees. Said farm is well fenced with chestnut rails and stone-wall, and will produce upwards of 40 tons of good English Hay. Any person inclining to purchase may hear of further particulars by applying to James Bascom now living on the premises, or to Wm. Ellery of Hartford.

Arthur Bastion

Wonder what the price was —

Eds.

Pamela Donovan Hall and her Forgotten Valley

by Grace Wheeler

(on Editorial board)



About a year ago, I received a phone call from a young woman who introduced herself as Pamela Donovan Hall of Knightsville Road in Huntington. Pam had a story she thought would be appropriate for Stone Walls. It was a Civil War diary of Henry Sumner. Henry was the great grandfather of Pam's husband. As we talked, it became apparent that this young woman and I had much in common and were interested in many of the same things, such as family and local history. Pam

asked if I might be able to help her get started on her family genealogy, and thus a friendship was formed.

During the past year, I have found Pam to be a bundle of energy. She has a husband, two small children and a large house to care for, but still finds time to have a very interesting, time consuming hobby. If you were to drive by Pam's house at one or two in the morning, most likely you would find her burning the midnight oil, reading old town reports, family or town his-

tories. This seems to be the time she has the peace and quiet to really become engrossed in her work.

Soon after Pam and I became acquainted, I asked her to join our local Historical Society. This she did, and has become a very active member, having just been elected President.

During this past year, she began to look into the history of her home, and found it had been moved from the Knightville area after the Dam was built in 1947. One thing led to another, and soon she found herself interested in the whole settlement of Knightville that had been moved to make room for the Dam. In researching the people, their homes, the factories and the cemeteries, she became so interested and gathered so many facts, she has decided to write a book. It will be called "The Forgotten Valley".

One of the first things she did was to organize a group called the "Neighbors" of Knightville which consists of neighbors, families that once lived in the area and descendants of many of the early families of Knightville.

In the past few months, Pam has interviewed between 25 and 30 descendants of the original families who once lived in Knightville or Indian Hollow. Along with this, she has collected pictures of all but two of the early homes of the area. Pam has spent a lot of hours visiting many of the old cellar holes where many of these old homes once stood. By digging into the genealogy of these early families, she has learned much about their homes, families, work habits and hobbies.

Along with this, Pam has also been working with the Army Corps of Engineers in hopes that, with their help and that of the Huntington Historical Society, the old Lee House can be

opened as a Visitors' Center. The house stands just inside the gates to the Dam. Displays of old photographs and other memorabilia will be displayed there.

Very soon a large stone will be taken from the Knightville basin and will be moved to the site of the Norwich Bridge Cemetery where it will be set and engraved as a marker in memory of the people whose graves were moved there some forty years ago. Pam has also been instrumental in this project. The Huntington Historical Society will pay the expenses.

Pam would enjoy hearing from anyone who can supply her with added information on her projects. Anyone taking the time to contact her will find her bubbling over with enthusiasm.

Pam was born in Presque Isle, Maine in December of 1947, she is the daughter of Gaylon and Ruby (Beckwith) Donovan of West Chesterfield. She attended schools in Chesterfield and graduated from Williamsburg High School and Smith Vocational School of Practical Nursing. She is married to William Hall and is the mother of two children, a daughter, Morgan, age 4, and a son, Chad, age 2½ years.

I know our readers wish Pam the best of luck with all her endeavors and will be waiting to read her book "The Forgotten Valley" when it is published.

EDITORS NOTE:

It has just been learned that the Huntington Historical Society has been given a lease to the old Lee House with permission to open a Visitors' Center there on August 17, from 2 to 4 P.M., and possibly every Sunday for the next six weeks. What happens next summer depends on the number of visitors and how much enthusiasm is shown in the project.



The Old Folks' Association of West Cummington

by Lucy Conant

Senior citizen groups are not new in the hilltowns. On June 16, 1897 the Old Folks' Association was organized at a meeting in West Cummington. A small pamphlet labeled as Volume II printed by William G. Atkins of Northampton provides a record of this group from 1902 to 1909.

The Association met annually on the second Wednesday in June at the Deer Hill House in West Cummington. Evidently the minimum age requirement for membership was sixty. Each year a list of new members was given along with their age, as well as a mortuary record of those members who had died during the previous year. Most of these men and women came from Cummington, Plainfield, Worthington and other nearby towns, although a few came from other states. Attendance of members varied from about sixty to over one hundred, but there seemed to be many other people who attended as well. (Perhaps they were too young to join.) The group met for a noonday dinner, then had a business meeting followed by speeches, recitations and music. A collection was taken which usually gave the treasury a balance of \$15 to \$20. Officers and committee chairmen were chosen by a nominating committee.

The last reunion of the Old Folks' Association recorded in this pamphlet was held on June 9, 1909. Since two hundred people attended, one hundred being members from seventeen towns, the organization was doing fine. Is there a Volume III of the Old Folks' Association? When did it disband? Were there other such associations in the area or was this regional group unique?

The forthright name of this organization is refreshing, as is the listing of individual's ages. Obviously no apology was given for the aging process. The use of horse drawn transportation as West Cummington was far from any railroad or trolley line did not keep these senior citizens at home. From the minutes of the Association's meetings, they obviously had a good time together. Their serious and organized approach to these meetings, such as having the Association's minutes and speeches printed, gives us a fascinating view of one aspect of life in the early 1900's.



Causes of the Decline of the Hill Towns

by William G. Atkins

from the Records of the Old Folks' Association
of West Cummington, Vol. II, 1906



Properly to weigh this matter, we must go back to the early settlement and the period of their greatest prosperity. Let us go back one hundred years and look at the condition of the country at large. Then there was not a railroad, not a telegraph, not a telephone, electricity had not been utilized, farm machinery was unknown, newspapers were few and far between, mails were in a primitive condition and almost everything used was the product of domestic economy. In this sense the whole country, as the settled, is included. There was not a city in Massachusetts, and but few large towns and the rural towns were a large per cent of the population, and barring the steep and hilly roads to travel over, the hill towns were as feasible and eligible for homes as any portion of the State, and the soil, retaining all its virgin fertility, was found to respond to cultivation.

It has been found that humanity prefers self-government, and it is therefore natural that people sought homes among the hills, where land could be obtained almost for the asking, and where they could establish local government and churches where they could worship according to the dictates of conscience. In this they followed the same spirit of the Puritan emigrants of the Mayflower, whose characters have been a subject for emulation for centuries. Here we have a picture on the condition of the country one hundred years ago, and now let us look at some of the subsequent changes.

About 1820, a large tract in Ohio, called the Western Reserve, or the New Connecticut, was opened and became an objective point for emigration, being about the first known, locally, of the so-called Western emigration.

Ever since then the great West has been developing rapidly, moving like a

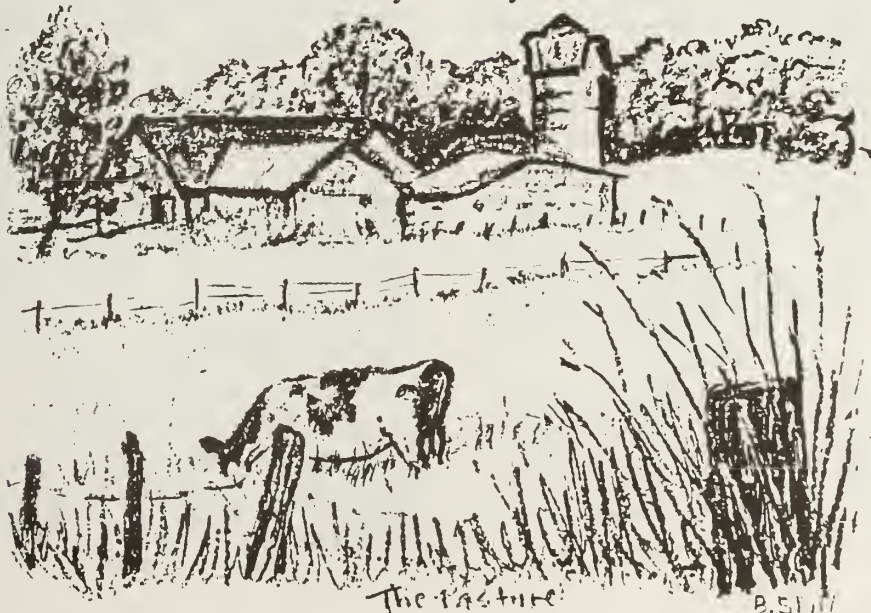
tidal wave, drawing many to the broad grain fields and to the Western cities with their volume of business.

At the same time the cities of the East were developing, at the expense of the rural towns. They offer greater facilities for business, the avenues for educational interests are greater, manufacturing has gradually drifted into the control of monopolies and syndicates, and small manufacturers, without capital, can no longer compete, as in the days of the old hand loom, tailors and shoemakers. The railroads have been a potent factor in drawing people to their lines, and it has been learned that business interests must follow the railroads, and towns remote from railroads naturally decline.

Another serious drawback to the rural towns is the constant enactment of state laws which increases the tax rate, some late entering wedges being the introduction of a cattle commission, school superintendents, new ballot boxes, all of which are superfluous and unnecessary, while at the same time the population and valuation of the rural towns are constantly

decreasing, making the burden of taxation heavy upon the property owners and making pertinent the question, "Where will the taxes come from in the future?"

The matter of condensing the schools and the transportation of scholars is a bugbear to many in the rural towns. Still, there is another side to the picture. The State special appropriation for schools and roads, the influx of summer visitors, the late increase in the dairying interest and the introduction of Granges and agricultural societies, all have a salutary influence. Many of the abandoned homesteads are bought by foreigners who are willing to work and can make a good living, but do they, as citizens, sustain the quality of society as in the primitive days? One of the old statesmen of our country once said, "I know of no way of judging the future but by the past," and judging by the past 75 years, while we deplore what seems to be the inevitable, can we reasonably expect that our native born citizens will again emigrate to those localities and build them up as in the primitive days?



The Pasture

The Chester Emery Mine

*contributed by Stanley Greenburg
from The Hampshire Gazette
March 24, 1868*

We had heard much of this mine, and of its far famed geological and mineralogical interest, and were moved with a desire to inspect it for ourselves.

Accordingly, after a fine ride in the cars one fine morning sometime since, we stopped at the Chester Depot, where we found that the mine was situated a little more than a quarter of a mile distant, west or northwest from it. We proceeded up the hill toward the spot, and as we neared it the first thing that met our eye, connected with it, was the remains of the washing and sorting mill, which was unfortunately burned to the ground last fall, or early in the winter. Previous to the fire, which was supposed to be the result of an accident, a large number of hands were employed; but as the company now have no other method of preparing the ore than sending it off to another mill built for the manufacture of imported English emery, only two or three men are now at work there, and as Capt. Elliot, the one in charge there, was absent at the time of our visit, it was from them that we received our information.

They said the company would probably rebuild this spring and summer, and when the new building should be completed, they would employ a large force.

Prior to the discovery of this mine, some few years since, there was no mine of this mineral, or at least, none of any account, known to exist in this country, and all of our emery was imported from the old world. The large number of uses to which it is put in grinding and polishing is known to all. It stands next to the diamond in hardness and is also known by the name of corundum.

Chemically speaking, it is nearly pure Aluminum, which is a sesquioxide of the metal Aluminum, which exists largely in a combination in the formation of the crust of the earth. Its symbol, Al_2O_3 , shows the combining portion of the elements, Aluminum and Oxygen.*

It is claimed that this emery is fully equal to that part imported from Europe, which circumstance, taken together with the fact that this is at present the only mine of importance in **this country, promises to the company** a splendid prospect of success.

Its discovery is reported to have been made by the dip of the needle noticed by a surveyor while at work surveying over it. Its full extent is not known, but it would seem from what is already known that the quantity is sufficient to last for ages. The vein of emery is from 4 to 6 feet in width, and has been traced upon the surface four or five miles. Its

depth is unknown, but is supposed to be at least several hundred feet in length. It is embodied in solid rock, composed of soapstone, hornblende, etc. In working the mine, the company has opened a horizontal drift in the soapstone. This drift comes to the surface at the foot of the hill, and is from 200 to 250 feet below the surface at the top of the hill. This has been cut for the distance of 350 feet. At right angles with this they have made four or five other drifts, striking the vein of emery at different points, thus affording an opportunity of working it at several different places at the same time.

The vein has been excavated for from 10 to 20 feet in depth, and is nearly 300 feet in length. This being from 200 to 300 feet below the surface, proves that the vein is at least that depth. The vein consists of two classes of emery, one of which is called the crystalline; the name of the other we have forgotten. Each has its appropriate use.

Embedded in the latter class are found magnificent specimens of diasapore* and margarite. Until the discovery of this mine, the former of these was a very rare mineral, and in speaking of some of the specimens of it found there, Prof. U.S. Shepard of Amherst College has been heard to say, that if they had been obtaining it fifteen or twenty years ago, they would have been worth a small fortune. He has occasionally visited the mine in company with his class in geology and mineralogy.

As it is situated so near the depot, it can be very easily visited by all who wish, and if any one is traveling by upon the cars, they can by stopping over one train, avail themselves of a rare opportunity of seeing one of the wonders of this country, and of obtain-

ing quite a valuable addition to their collection of minerals.

*Webster's Dictionary states:

Corundum — a common mineral, aluminum oxide, Al_2O_3 notable for its hardness. Transparent varieties including the ruby and sapphire are prized gems; translucent varieties are used as abrasives.

Diaspore — a mineral aluminum hydroxide, $HA1,02$ occurring in crystals, or more usually in lamellar or scaly masses.

Margarite — hydrated aluminum calcium silicate; a crystalline structure appearing in igneous rocks in which tiny spherical crystals are grouped in a beadlike pattern.



Mikweed Pods



Walking

by Jo Ann Olds
Age 10

*As I walk along
In the whisper warm
wet with the dew on the grass
and all around me
are the trees
the birds
The golden rod
and indigo ivy.*

*As I walk
through the field
I hear the bluefinch
calling to me
with his scratchy voice saying
Tee Hee Tee Hee.*



Cat on the Window Sill

by Laura White
Age 11

Cat.
Sitting.
Listening
Hearing only the night.
Wondering.
Dreaming.
Purring gently.
Enjoyment.
Restful.
Asking the stars questions,
Hearing silent answers.
Speaking to the darkness,
Whispering to the silence.
Hearing no one.
Cat on the window sill.

Civil War Diary

1863

Part III

by Henry Jesse Sumner

April 1st Today is All Fools Day and is pleasant and warm, but very windy. I am on guard today - post 27, 1st district. The regiment had 40 rounds of cartridges given us as they fear an attack from the rebels. They are attacking Little Washington today and we can hear the booming of cannon very plainly here. We had dress parade this evening.

April 2nd Today is a warm and pleasant day. I came off guard at 10 o'clock without anything occurring. The firing at Little Washington ceased about 7 o'clock last night. I have not heard any particulars as yet. I got a letter from Becky today. We had dress parade this evening.

April 3rd Today has been cloudy all day and very cold. I was on guard, post 8 1st district. The regiment had company drills in the afternoon.

April 4th Today has been very cold but pleasant. I came off guard at 10 o'clock. I arrested an officer for being without his shoulder straps. Today, we had dress parade and I wrote to Sarah.

April 5th Today has been pleasant and warm. I am on guard, post II at the paymasters, 3rd district. The regiment went to meeting this afternoon and had dress parade.

April 6th Today has been very warm and pleasant. I came off guard at 10 o'clock today. I have not been well

today. I have a sick headache. We had skirmish drill this afternoon and dress parade.

April 7th Today has been pleasant and warm. I got a letter from Becky. We had company drill this afternoon and dress parade tonight. The 3rd and 8th Mass and 85th, 132nd, 158th, and 103rd New York regiments went off tonight with 3 days in their* haversack. Also the 43rd and 17th. I wrote to Becky.

April 8th Today has been warm and pleasant and (has been) exciting by (having) troops and ammunition. We had company drill this afternoon and dress parade.

April 9th Today has been another warm and pleasant one. Last night I took the place of Pope on guard, he being sick. I was on post 4, 2nd district, guarding some forage in the building (where) we stopped the first night we came here. I came off guard this morning at ½ past 9. I only stood 4 hours. We had company drill this afternoon and dress parade.

April 10th Today has been pleasant and warm. The regiment came back from the expedition without accomplishing anything. We had company drill and dress parade. I wrote to Sarah today.

April 11th Today has been very warm and pleasant. We had no drill today but had dress parade.

April 12th Today has been very warm and pleasant. I was on guard, post 5, 1st district, at the bake house. The regiment was mustered in for 4 months pay and had dress parade.

April 13th Today has been cloudy all day. I came off guard this morning at 10 a.m. We had battalion drill this afternoon and dress parade.

April 14th Today has been pleasant but a little showery. In the afternoon we had battalion drill and dress parade. I got a letter from Sarah and one from Mary Bowman.

April 15th Today has been very stormy with thunder and lightning. One of our sentinels was struck by it so that he had to be carried to the hospital on a stretcher. I am on guard today — part of the time on post 3, 2nd district and part of the time on patrol. I wrote to Sarah and Becky. The regiment had dress parade.

April 16th Today has been pleasant and warm. I came off guard at 9 a.m. General Foster came down from Little Washington last night by running the blockade. The boat was fired into and pretty well riddled. The pilot was killed and one of the deck hands had his arm shot off. Today the whole company are on guard on the wharf. The regiment had dress parade.

April 18th Today has been very warm. The regiment had no drill. We had dress parade. I have not been very well for the last two days.

April 19th Today has been pleasant and exceedingly warm. The regiment went to meeting this afternoon and had dress parade this evening.

April 20th This morning opened pleasant and warm. This afternoon has

been stormy with thunder and lightning. I wrote to Sarah and Becky last night.

April 21st Today has been cool and cloudy all day. We had a battalion drill this afternoon and dress parade. I wrote to Sarah today.

April 22nd Today has been pleasant and warm. I was on guard today patrolling the 3rd district. The regiment has dress parade.

April 23rd Today has been wet and stormy. I came off guard at ½ past 9. There were showers during the night. Today we have been paid 4 months pay. The regiment had dress parade and orders to leave the city as the 44th is coming to do provost duty.

April 24th Today has been pleasant and warm. I had my picture taken today. We have been getting ready to move tomorrow at 11 o'clock to Fort Spinola. We had dress parade today and I wrote to Sarah and sent her my ambrotype and also sent home some goods in a box.

April 25th Today has been warm and pleasant. We packed up today and left the city at 11 o'clock and we got into our camp at Fort Spinola at 12. We had dress parade in our fatigue dress. I got two letters from Sarah and her ambrotype.

April 26th Today opened cool and pleasant. I slept in a tent for the first time and I liked it first rate. I was on police duty today.

April 27th I was on police guard today. Today has been pleasant and warm. I was on picket guard. They routed us out at 11 o'clock last night with orders to get ready in light marching order and fall out. We did not know what was up. We went up front of the colonel's tent and he sent us down to the R.R. bridge to do picket

duty until relieved. This morning at 10 o'clock, the regiment marched off with 3 days rations going on an expedition and not a soul knew it until they were ordered to get ready.

They are going towards Kingston on the cars.

April 28th Today is wet and stormy. It commenced last night about 10 o'clock.

April 29th Today has been pleasant. We are still here on picket. I wrote to Sarah, Becky, and to Joe Ashton.

April 30th Today has been pleasant and warm. We were relieved of picket guard this morning. It was wet and stormy and our boys have had a wet time of it on their expedition.

May 1st Today has been pleasant and warm. We went on picket again today. The regiment came home at 3 o'clock this afternoon. They had a pretty good time except in the afternoon the first two days when they had to skirmish all the way the second they came across the rebels behind their breast works. Our regiment charged on them and took them. They lost 2 men killed and one or two wounded. We had dress parade this evening.

May 2nd Today has been warm and pleasant. We were relieved from picket at 9 a.m. We had dress parade this evening. I got a letter from Becky.

May 3rd Today has been warm and pleasant. We had meeting this morning and after meeting, we had permission to go outside the camp. So Shoudy* and I went mazing and got a large, handsome bouquet of wild flowers. I gave mine to the orderly. This afternoon, we had inspections and after tea, I went bathing. I wrote to Becky.

May 4th Today has been very warm and pleasant. The regiment had company drill except ours. This morning and afternoon, ours was raising their tents. We had dress parade this evening. Company 1 came up from Fort Macon this afternoon.

May 5th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had drill this morning and after drill, I went to the city. This afternoon, we had company drill and dress parade.

May 6th Today has been pleasant and warm. I am on guard today for the first time in our new camp — post 8. The grand rounds came round once. Steve came up to see me and brought me the sad news that he had lost his wife. The night was cloudy and stormy.

May 7th Today has been very cool but pleasant. We got some shade trees to put in front of our tents. We had dress parade in the evening.

May 8th Today has been cloudy and cold most of the day. We had company drill this morning and battalion this afternoon with dress parade.

May 9th Today has been cool and pleasant. I am on frolic today fixing up the camp streets. My chums and myself went and got evergreens and made an arbor* in front of our tent. We had dress parade this evening.

May 10th Today has been pleasant and warm. I went to meeting this morning, then I went down along river side to the battleground where they had the fight in taking Newbern. This evening, we had inspection arms by the Captain and dress parade.

May 11th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning and battalion drill this afternoon with dress parade. I got letters from Becky and Frank.

May 12th Today has been warm and pleasant. We had company drill this morning and battalion drill this afternoon with dress parade. I wrote to Sarah today.

May 13th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning and battalion drill this afternoon with dress parade. I got a box from home today with a letter. The box came in very good condition.

May 14th Today has been very warm indeed and pleasant. We had company drill this morning and battalion and dress parade this afternoon. I was bringing water for the cooks most of the day. I also went in swimming.

May 15th Today has been cool and pleasant. We had company drill this morning and after drill, I went to the city and over to the 5th Regiment and staid until two o'clock. We had battalion drill this evening and dress parade.

May 16th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had brigade review this afternoon. I did not go as I was detailed in the hospital as apothecary*. I like it first rate.

May 17th Today has been pleasant and warm. Last night it rained most all night. Today we had divine service this morning and dress parade this evening. I got a letter from Sarah and wrote Frank and Becky.

May 18th Today has been pleasant and warm. I am still here at the dispensary. The company had drill this morning and battalion this afternoon and dress parade. I got a letter from Sarah and wrote to her.

May 19th Today has been very warm and pleasant. I am still here in the hospital. The company had a drill this morning and battalion this evening and dress parade.

May 20th Today has been warm and pleasant. The regiment had company drill this morning and battalion this afternoon and dress parade. I left the hospital today and went back into the company.

May 21st Today has been very warm and pleasant. We had company drill this morning. This afternoon, we had review and inspection by Generals Palmer and Amory of guns, knapsacks, quarters, and everything. They were pleased with our appearance and gave us praise for being the best drilled regiment in the department.

May 22nd Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning. After drill, I went berrying and got a lot of blackberries and strawberries that later I had for dinner and blackberries and sugar for tea. We had battalion drill and dress parade this evening. The Lieut. gave us a dollar today from the company fund.

May 23rd Today has been pleasant and very warm. I was to work on the entrenchments today. The regiment had dress parade at roll call. About half past eight, the cars came down and stopped in front of the camp and orders came to get ready in 30 minutes in light marching order. We got aboard the cars and started. About 12 o'clock we stopped at Bachelors Creek where we camped for the night on the ground. The rebels had come down and drove our pickets. Colonel Jones of the 28th Pa. Regiment, went to meet them and was shot dead through the heart. They took 170 prisoners, 2 baggage wagons, and a lot of horses.

May 24th Today is exceedingly warm and pleasant. About 10 o'clock, we got ready and escorted the body of Col. Jones to the cars with arms reversed. We then came back to camp without seeing a rebel or firing a gun. We had inspection and dress parade this evening.

May 25th Today has been pleasant and warm. I got a letter from Becky and wrote to her and to Sarah. I got two pictures from Becky; one I sent to Sarah. We had company drill this morning. This afternoon, I went over to see the negro regiment. There are about six hundred of them. We had battalion drill and dress parade this evening.

May 26th Today has been cloudy and cool. We had skirmish drill this morning. After drill, I went blackberrying. While I was gone, the regiment went off to Newbern to attend the funeral of Col. Jones. This evening, we had dress parade. I wrote to Mr. Mitchell today.

May 27th Today has been warm and cloudy. I was on camp police today helping to dig a well. The regiment had company drill this noon. They were addressed by Gen. Foster to get them to enlist again in the heavy artillery to garrison the forts. In this department, they were offered 150 dollars bounty and 30 days furlough. Tonight they had battalion drill and dress parade.

May 28th Today has been warm and pleasant. We had company drill this morning and after drill, I went blackberrying and got two qts. This afternoon, we had battalion drill and dress parade.

May 29th Today has been wet and stormy. We had company drill this

morning and battalion tonight and dress parade. I wrote to Frank.

May 30th Today has (been) pleasant — wet by spell. I was to work on the fort this morning and this afternoon, went after blackberries and got two qts. This evening, we had dress parade.

May 31st Today has been pleasant and warm. I got a letter from Rebecca and Joseph last night. Today I wrote to them. This morning I went to meeting and this afternoon, we had heavy inspection. I went to meeting this evening.

Monday, June 1st Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning and then I went berrying and got 2 qts. This afternoon we had battalion drill and dress parade. I went in swimming.

June 2nd Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning and battalion drill and dress parade. Our Colonel had his flag staff erected. The flag raised today.

June 3rd Today it was pleasant this morning and stormy this afternoon. I was to work on the entrenchment. The regiment had company drill this morning and battalion drill this evening — no dress parade.

June 4th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill. After drill I went over to the 5th regiment to see my brother. This afternoon, we had battalion drill and dress parade. I saw 22 rebels that was brought into the city.

June 5th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning and this afternoon, we had battalion drill and dress parade. I wrote to Sarah today.

June 6th Today it was showery this morning but pleasant and warm. I was water carrier today. The regiment had brigade drill by Col. Holbroke. The 44th started for home this morning. We had dress parade this evening.

June 7th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had church service this morning and then I went to visit the 43rd. This afternoon, we had inspection and dress parade. This evening we had meeting which I attended.

June 8th Today has been pleasant and warm. We had company drill this morning and battalion drill and dress parade this evening. I wrote to Becky today.

June 9th Today has been pleasant and warm. I am on guard today — post 2. I got a letter from Sarah and wrote to her. We had company drill this morning and battalion drill and dress parade this evening.

June 10th Today has been pleasant until one o'clock; then a thunder shower came up and it rained all the afternoon. We had company drill this morning. Then I went blackberrying and got two quarts. This evening it cleared off enough that we had dress parade.

June 12th Today was pleasant until afternoon when we had a heavy thunderstorm. We had company drill this morning. It rained all the afternoon. We had no dress parade.

June 13th Today has been stormy all day; no drills today. I went over to the hospital to see the boys and found them better. We had dress parade tonight.

June 14th Today has been cloudy and some rain. We had church service

this morning. I was water carrier today. This evening, we had inspection and dress parade and orders was read that there should be no more morning drills.

June 15th Today has been pleasant and warm. I went after berries this morning and got two quarts. This evening, we had battalion drill and dress parade.

June 16th Today has been pleasant and warm. I have been sick all day and last night. This evening, we had battalion drill and dress parade. The colonel was taken sick tonight. There is over 200 of the regiment sick.

June 17th Today has been pleasant and warm. I ain't any better today. The regiment had battalion drill and dress parade this evening. I got a letter from Becky and Mr. Mitchell this afternoon.

June 18th Today has been showery with thunder and lightning. This evening we had dress parade and battalion drill. I have been pretty sick today but feel better tonight. Our Captain and Lieutenants are sick so that they had to detail an officer from another company to take charge of the company.

June 19th This morning was pleasant and cool. The afternoon was showery. The regiment had battalion for a half an hour and dress parade today. I feel about the same.

June 20th Today the weather was pleasant this morning and showery this afternoon. We had no drill or dress parade today. I feel better today than I have.

June 21st Today I am a good deal better. The weather was pleasant this morning. This afternoon, it has been stormy. I got a letter from Becky. I was

detailed into the hospital today as an apothecary, Bates* being sick. We had no meeting or dress parade today. There was two men died in the hospital this morning.

June 22nd Today has been stormy most the the day. We have been packing up to move for home. This evening, we had dress parade.

June 23rd Today has been pleasant and warm. I finished packing up today ready to start tomorrow morning. The regiment had heavy marching inspection by Gen. Foster's aide and also had dress parade on which was read the farewell address of Gen. Foster.

June 24th Today has been pleasant and warm. We got ready to start for home and at 2 o'clock, got aboard. The cars started at eight for Morehead stopping twice on the way — once at Cortan Station for water, then at Newport Barracks for wood. We got to Morehead at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 11 and got aboard the boat and started at 5 minutes before twelve. The Spalding starting first. It seems good to be on our way home once more after being absent so long. It began to blow hard after we got out to sea and I was seasick.

June 25th Today it has been stormy and blowed hard all day. We passed Hatteras Light at 12 last night. I was sick all night but feel first rate today. We passed Cape Henry Light at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4; made Fortress Monroe at 6; cast anchor $\frac{1}{2}$ past. We had a wet passage all day.

June 26th Today opened wet and stormy. We still lay off Fortress Monroe yet. It is just nine months today since I was sworn in. The weather cleared by noon and we got orders to start for home so we weighed anchor

and started at 20 minutes to one. We passed Cape Charles Light by three o'clock.

June 27th Today it is stormy. This morning, I saw a whale — this about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile off. A man like to fell overboard this morning. One of the cooks caught him by the leg at he was going over. The weather cleared off about 10 o'clock and was pleasant all day.

June 28th Today is very pleasant and warm. Spoke the United States gunboat, Shenandoah at $\frac{1}{4}$ of 5 p.m. and at 5, passed Montague Light.

June 29th Today is pleasant and warm. We passed Vineyard Light $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 this morning; passed Chatham at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 8 this morning; passed Highland Light at 12 a.m.; passed Minots Light at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 p.m.; arrived in Boston at 5 p.m. The wharves were crowded to see us.

June 30th Today has been a lovely day. We landed at 5 o'clock and at eight, the procession started and when they got front of the State House, they halted and were addressed by Gov. Andrews and Mayor Lincoln. They then moved on to the Common and then had a collation and was received by our friends. We then started for Readville where we were dismissed until Monday following.

June 31st Today has been pleasant and warm. I started it in visiting my friends.

July 1st Today is pleasant and warm. I started for Boston at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 9 a.m. Then I started for Taunton; got there at 12 o'clock. The folks were all glad to see me.

July 2nd Today is pleasant and hot. I spent the day visiting my friends. At 6 p.m., I started for Pawtucket with Joe and Becky. The folks were very glad to see me.

July 3rd I spent in Pawtucket. The weather was pleasant and warm.

July 4th Today has been pleasant and warm. I went over to Providence and spent the day. Saw a tightrope performance and went to the museum. I also saw the Watermans. I started for Boston at 7:30 p.m.; got there at 9. Stopped to see the fire-works, then started for home and got there at 12 o'clock.

July 5th Today is warm but cloudy. I went to meeting this afternoon.

July 6th The weather is pleasant and warm. I started for camp this morning to be sworn out but they weren't ready for, so I came back.

July 7th Today I again started for camp and was sworn out in the afternoon but did not get our pay or papers.

July 8th Today is pleasant and warm. I went up to Mary's and took dinner. I wrote to Becky today.

On back page of diary:

Paid	
*Caswell	19¢
*Snow	29
Bordon	29
Sumner	19
Orderly	25
*Thompson	28
Moffatt	19
Shoudy	99
1 picture	\$2.00
1 do	1.00
1 "	1.00
Stamps	60
Butter	40
*Sutler	6.00

A pencil drawing was also in the diary made by him of the camp on the river. Also a pressed wild columbine. Also a clipping from the local paper:

Buddys Diary of Lynn 25 years ago

May 6 1898 Friday. Brite and Fair.

Miss Grace Sumner entertained about 20 of her little friends at her home, 76½ Washington St. last evening, the occasion being Miss Sumner's 8th birthday. Refreshments were served and games were played and the music furnished by Miss Isabelle G. Meikle.

* DEFINITIONS *

haversack — large knapsacks

Shoudy — Henry Shoudy; Private; from Dorchester; age 30; mason; enlisted 9-12-1862; mustered in 9-26-1862; wounded at Whitehall, N.C. 12-16-1862; mustered out 7-7-1863; 45 regt. Co. B.

Arbor — branches used as shade

apothecary — druggist

Bates — Caleb L. Bates; Private; from Cohasset; age 18 clerk; enlisted 9-15-1862; mustered in 9-26-1862; mustered out 7-7-1863.

Caswell — Henry Caswell — Private; from Milton; age 18; farmer; enlisted 9-12-1862; mustered in 9-26-1862; mustered out 7-7-1863; in 45th regt. Co. B.

Snow — Gerge Snow; Private; from Nantucket; age 18; fisherman; enlisted 9-16-1862; mustered in 9-26-1862; mustered out 7-7-1863; in 45th regt. Co. H.

Thompson — Daniel Thompson; from Boston; age 21; clerk; enlisted 9-15-1862; mustered in 9-26-1862; mustered out 7-7-1863; in 45th regt. Co. C.

Sutler — a traveling PX.

FORTY-FIFTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER MILITIA (INFANTRY)

NINE MONTHS

The 45th Regt. Mass. Vol. Mil., or Cadet Regiment, was one of the new militia regiments raised in response to the call of Aug. 4, 1862, for nine months troops. It received the title by which it was commonly known because of the fact that over forty of the commissioned officers of the regiment were former members of the Boston Cadets. Its commander, Col. Charles R. Codman, had served as Captain and Adjutant of the Boston Cadets during their period of service at Fort Warren in the early summer of 1862.

Organized at Camp Meigs, Readville, in the early fall of 1862, the first eight companies of the 45th were mustered in on the 26th day of September, and the other two, "I" and "K", on the 7th of October.

On Nov. 5, the regiment embarked on the steamer *MISSISSIPPI* for Beaufort, N. C., arriving at its destination on the 15th. Transported by rail to Newbern, it was here assigned to Amory's Brigade of Foster's Division. The regimental camp was established on the banks of the Trent River near Fort Gaston. Here the 45th remained, following the regular routine of camp life, until Dec. 12, when it set out with Genl. Foster's expedition to Goldsboro. Only eight companies took part in this expedition, Co. "C" having been sent on special duty to Morehead City, and Co. "G" to Fort Macon.

At Kinston, Dec. 14, the regiment had its first taste of real war, losing 15 men killed and 43 wounded. At Whitehall, Dec. 16, it was again engaged, losing 4 killed and 16 wounded. At Goldsboro on the 17th the 45th was not in action, and on the following day it began its return march to Newbern, arriving at its former camp Dec. 21.

On January 17, 1863, the 45th started on a reconnaissance to Trenton, returning on the 22d. From Jan. 26 to April 25 it served as provost guard in the city of Newbern. During this period, on March 14, occurred the Confederate attack on Newbern, of which the 45th was an interested spectator but was not called into action.

On April 27 it started with Amory's Brigade on an expedition to Core Creek on the railroad toward Goldsboro. On the following day it was sharply engaged, taking a Confederate work which crossed the railroad near its intersection with the Dover Road, and losing one man killed and four wounded.

This expedition being ended, the regiment returned to its last camp, near Fort Spinola, just below Newbern, on the Trent. Here it remained until June 24, when it proceeded to Morehead City, a suburb of Beaufort, N. C., and there took transports for Boston.

Arriving at its destination June 30, the regiment was formally welcomed, then proceeded to its old camp at Readville where it remained until its muster out of the service July 8.

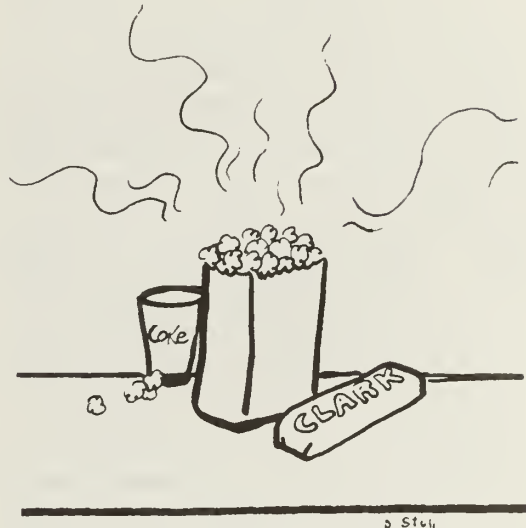
Local Movie Houses And Drive-Ins — A Fading Era

by Shelly Messenger

The aroma of hot buttered popcorn, ice cold drinks and signs that flash the latest movie releases, these are not completely forgotten since the introduction of video recorders and cable television. The children of the eighties may possibly only read of the memorable moments that we, the older generation, spent at the local movie house or drive-in theater.

I was born in 1954 and can remember the enjoyment that these places provided in the sometimes hum-drum routines of childhood. One such, the Strand Theater, located in downtown Westfield, is no longer operating. I can still remember Saturday afternoons as a child, taking my fifty cents allowance in hand, standing in line with all my friends and waiting patiently for the matinee show.

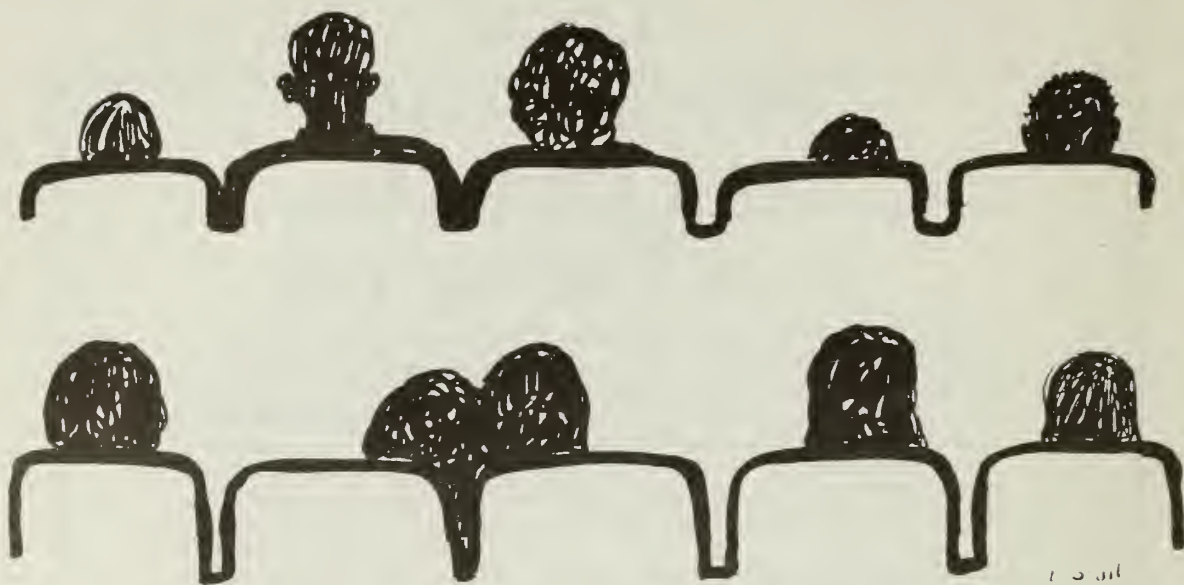
My father, who is now in his fifties, remembers paying the large sum of twelve cents admission. He would come down from Chester to see the ten week running serials. Offering serials was considered good business, as it kept people coming back. Sometimes the theaters would run specials.



According to my dad, patrons could purchase encyclopedias for fifty cents.

During my movie-going years, they would hold "canned goods days". For the price of a can of soup or vegetables, we could get into the show for an afternoon of cartoons and movies. The canned goods would go to needy families in the area.

Westfield had two theaters then, giving us a choice of movies. There was also the Park Theater on Main Street near the Green, where various small



shops are now located. There was seating on the first floor and balcony with plenty of space for all the area kids. The films would range from Disney flicks to all types of G-rated comedy and horror films. Each showing would open with at least two or three good cartoons. One particular favorite of mine was the "Annette and Frankie" beach movie.

For the pre-teen of those times, an afternoon at the movies meant hours of before-hand primping. At that age, meeting friends and possibly that "special someone" was indeed important. There must be many people who remember these spots as a meeting place where young love began. Holding hands and sitting with heads close together were a familiar sight.

Walking into these buildings of the past was a delight. The candy counter was always well stocked. Popcorn, candy, and soda and all types of ice cream treats could be purchased. We always tried to get all our goodies ahead of time, so as not to miss a single moment of the movie.

Such work and detail had been put into decorating these theaters. The high ceilings with ornate carvings and the elaborate velvet and gold decorations are now sadly missed. No movie theater of today can compare to the beauty of these old "movie palaces".

Another place for movie watchers was the drive-in theater. It too is becoming a thing of the past. As children, we would go to many such places for an evening of entertainment. I was a lucky child. My father worked part-time at the (now torn down) Round Hill Drive-in, near Valle's Steak House in Springfield. We always got into the show free and could help hand out lollipops. The site of this outdoor theatre is drastically changed, with a Route 91 ramp filling the spot and a hill no longer distinguishable. They had a motorized train for the youngsters and of course the much adored playground. Many fun filled moments were spent on swings and slides. Some drive-in theaters had free pony rides!

It seemed that nothing could compare with snuggling in "jammies", all freshly bathed, and sitting in the back seat of the car, watching the movie and munching on popcorn or french fries. The intermission advertisements were almost as entertaining as the movies themselves. These animated classics would show dancing soft drinks and jumping hot dogs and made the time pass quickly. Almost all of the outdoor theaters have disappeared or are about to do so. The Riverdale Drive-in, located behind the West Springfield Cinema, no longer operates. It looks, to passers-by, like a worn down old dinosaur, never to be resurrected. The Memorial Drive-in, which from my memory had a great play ground, now holds the K-Mart Plaza. The Airline Drive-in is also closed. To my knowledge, the Sundown Drive-in is the only area drive-in still in existence, but rumour has it that is also up for sale. No doubt apartments or condos will occupy the space in future years.

Living in the hilltowns makes me realize that our children will miss out on all the fun times we had. They can no longer go the short distance to Westfield to meet friends for the afternoon, but have to be driven to either the Showcase Cinemas in West Spring-

field or to the Holyoke Mall Cinemas at Ingleside. In this day and age, many parents will not permit their children to stay alone at these places, for obvious reasons. Admission has also increased from the fifty cents I paid, as well. Many of our children will wonder what is meant by the term "Drive-in", for there will be none in existence.

It seems that families are too busy these days (working and going their separate ways) for the one afternoon or evening a weekend to visit the outdoor or indoor theaters, thus the phasing out of such places of entertainment. Also it seems easier to watch television or video at home. On the minus side is the fact that not many of today's movies are fit for the entire family to watch.

There will be so much missed in future years. I cannot help but wonder if progress is always such a plus. There will no doubt be people, like myself, those who had such delightful moments and those who met their sweetheart and perhaps married him or her, who will think back, wishing we could turn back the clock. Those days of Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers, and even Beach movies are slowly fading away. Just as the cowboys of the long ago films, they too are riding off into the sunset.



MOVIES



B. St. H

The Death of the Red-Tail — A Sad Story —

by May Smith

He was Beautiful. The way he soared over the little lots, alighting in some of the big maples or a dead limb.

We enjoyed him and thought of him as our friend. If we hadn't heard his cry as we approached this area, we watched and were pleased when we saw him. I am not certain the feeling of friendship was mutual as he complained a lot when we were in his territory to cut grass and brush.

The bird about which I am talking

was a Red-Tailed Hawk. My bird book says in part, "Each year the Red-Tailed Hawk returns to the same nest in the crotch of some large tree. The nest is strengthened and enlarged. The Red-Tailed Hawks are large and slow flying. The female is about two feet long, and the male about two inches shorter. They are easily recognized by the red tail banded with black — the gray dappled body — brown above and white below."





A neighbor who rides her horse past here frequently, stopped one day earlier in the season and after chatting a few minutes said, "There's something I miss up here this year." I tried to think what we'd done that was different, and then she said, "I haven't seen the Red-Tailed Hawk" so I told her what I knew.

We had been working in a field that had been neglected for a few years — grass had been cut and taken away, and we had been through it and around stones cutting brush and leaving it to be drawn away. This was last autumn.

It was late, cold, blustery day, and as we were finishing picking up the piles of brush, we glanced around to be sure we had gotten it all, and we noticed a small pile by a stone. I stooped to pick up the brush in my arms, but jumped in surprise because underneath this brush lay our "Red-Tail," dead, of

course, most of his head was gone. What could have happened? So far as we know he would have no predator. He would snatch birds from the air — I think, and the brief time he would be on the ground to catch a rodent or any small animal — nothing would have time to get him.

We got into our old truck to take our load away, and were agreed that in the morning we would bring a shovel and bury him under some of the trees he was so accustomed to.

A strong, gusty, close to the ground wind was blowing and as we were driving away it lifted a once powerful wing into the air in what seemed a farewell to us — and the world. Did some uncaring man shoot him down, then tuck him out of sight under the brush pile?

We went back the next morning with our shovel — but he was gone.

Serious Railroad Accident At Russell

The Hampshire Gazette

Sept. 8, 1868

One man killed — Loss \$100,000 — The most serious accident that ever occurred on a railroad in Western Massachusetts, occurred at Russell last Wednesday night by which a freight train of twelve cars was precipitated into the bed of a river and destroyed by fire, a bridge demolished, one man killed, and another seriously injured. The train was run by Otis Taylor, an old and experienced engineer, son of Capt. Otis Taylor of Hinsdale, and James Everett, conductor, with brakemen Edwin Cheeseman, Arthur Bills and F.W. Barnes. At Chester, about 11 o'clock, the train was examined and found all right. After passing the Russell station, one end of the cross-bar of the brake fell and threw several cars from the track. The train then struck one end of a bridge, throwing it from its abutment and plunging the cars into the rocky chasm below. The engine passed over safely. Bills went down with the wreck and was killed. The 12 cars which plunged down and the one that hung at the edge of the bank contained kerosene oil, oats, corn, and flour. All were burned, together with the bridge and an old saw mill which stood near by. The total expenditure necessary to liquidate the property damages of the disaster is estimated at \$190,000. The explosion of the kerosene was heard for miles around, and people in Westfield saw distinctly the flames of the burning

cars and mill. It shook the houses in Russell, rousing the inhabitants to repair to the scene. Merchants, minister, farmers and all, "laid shoulder to the wheel" in a very energetic manner in removing one...of the remaining cars of the train from the fire. One of them was actually pulled from the flames. Mr. Taylor drove his engine at a rapid speed to Springfield, and brought up a train of wreckhands and Drs. Breck and Rice. Another train brought up the steam fire engine Henry Gray, whose vigorous streams soon checked the flames in the abyss. Hundreds of the people from the neighboring towns thronged to view the scene of the disaster.

Edwin Cheeseman, who was so severely burned, is the son of a well-to-do farmer in Hinsdale, and his parents always opposed his engagement in railroad work. He is but 21 years old and much liked among his fellow workmen. Although in a very critical state there is a possibility of his recovery. Arthur Bills, — of whose body but a few bones were recovered from the burned cars — was only 22 years of age, and the son of Mrs. Susan Bills, a widow living in Washington.

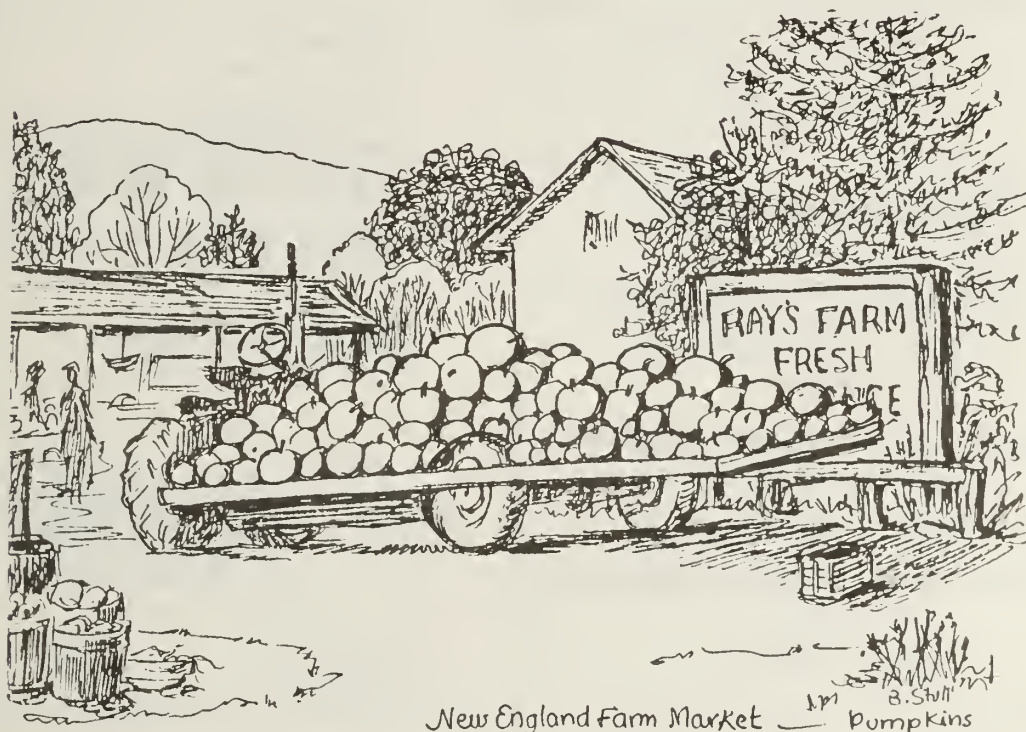
Trains are now passing regularly over a temporary bridge built at Russell, in place of the one destroyed. Cheeseman, who was so badly burned is doing well, and will recover from his injuries.

Our Readers Write Us

I am glad that the editors of *Stone Walls* shared the Reverend Robert Dewey's poignant "Ballad of Weslie Brass" with us. Not only was the reading of it a moving experience, but it brought to mind bits of history from that period. It took me back to my childhood when taking elocution lessons was almost as popular as studying music. I lived near a drama and music school where I began my study of the violin. Since practicing on my instrument

was a pleasure to me, I advanced rapidly and was sent about the city with elocution pupils, young and older ones aspiring for the legitimate stage. Poems, skits, plays (Shakespeare) as well as suspense, or comedy were presented with myself playing between the acts. These were wonderful experiences and happy times!

Helen Scott



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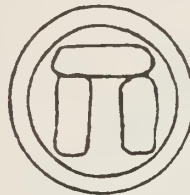
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Quotation:

*A brick is a brick is a brick, but one stone isn't like any other stone
in the world; each is its own challenge.*

Charles McRaven
Building With Stone
1980, with permission



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